

The Leavenworth Echo

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Connecting communities
across North Central
Washington
NCW News | B1-B2

Cascade Medical seeks levy renewal to sustain 24/7 emergency services

By TAYLOR CALDWELL
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – Cascade Medical Center will be asking voters to renew a 6-year levy for its emergency medical services (EMS) on April 22.

The special election ballot will ask for the same rate of 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value that was last approved by voters in 2019. The levy rate would amount to an estimated cost of approximately \$250 a year for a home with an assessed value of \$500,000. The levy has supported the emergency department and ambulance services in the Upper Valley for 35 years, according to Cascade Medical.

The levy funds staffing emergency physicians and providers, nursing and support staff to provide for 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year coverage. It also funds skills training and education for paramedics and EMTs, as well as specialized ambulances and equipment, including insurance, repairs, and fuel costs.

The hospital district encompasses approximately 1,200 square miles,



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

See **CASCADE MEDICAL** Page B2 Cascade Medical Center's service area encompasses approximately 1,200 square miles.

City Council debates resolution to address Forest Service needs

By TAYLOR CALDWELL
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – The Leavenworth City Council is considering a resolution that would oppose federal actions that impact surrounding Forest Service land and Wilderness Areas.

During its March 25 meeting, the City Council deliberated the details of a drafted resolution addressing the substantial loss of local Forest Service employees who were included in the mass firing of thousands of federal probationary employees in February.

Following legal challenges, the employees have been reinstated while litigation over the mass firings continues. First, the Merit Systems Protection Board issued a 45-day stay on March 5, reinstating employees as it investigated the legality of the firings.

Then on March 13, in a lawsuit joined by Washington State, U.S. District Court Judge William Alsup ordered a preliminary injunction to reinstate thousands of probationary employees at six federal agencies, including the Department of Agriculture. In his memorandum, Judge Alsup stated that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) had unlawfully directed agencies to fire their probationary employees, causing "irreparable harm." The government appealed the order to the Supreme Court.

"This is a moving target...They've been ordered to hire back, but then they've been told that that's a temporary situation. So again, this is very fluid," said Mayor Carl Florea.

The council's draft emphasized the need for management of highly trafficked Wilderness Areas, wildfire risk reduction, and protection of the city's water supply. It opposed the "wholesale cuts" of the Forest Service and urged Congress and federal agencies to maintain or increase funding levels. It also called upon federal representatives and Forest Service leadership to recognize the urgent needs in the community and the role Forest Service employees play in the "health and safety" of the city.

However, council members were hesitant to motion a vote on the

See **CITY COUNCIL** Page B4

Beaver Valley Elementary hit with vandalism



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

Beaver Valley students prepare for a field trip at the front entrance of the school. The March 20 incident damaged the front entrance windows.

By TAYLOR CALDWELL
Ward Media Staff Reporter

PLAIN – Cascade School District is seeking answers to a vandalism incident that occurred at Beaver Valley Elementary on the evening of March 20.

According to CSD, vandals damaged the double paned windows at the entrance of the school, but did not fully break through the safety glass or enter the school. Once aware of the incident, Principal Kenny Renner-Singer, School Board Chair Trey Ising, and a maintenance worker went to the school to assess the damage. Renner-Singer notified the Chelan County Sheriff's Office. School remained in session using alternate

entrances, with temporary repairs put in place.

The estimated cost of repairs is not yet known. The district aims to complete permanent repair by the end of Spring Break, and is also planning to add security features to the school, according to CSD Superintendent Tracey Edou.

"If anyone from the Plain community has additional information to share about the vandalism, we are interested in learning more. It goes without saying that taking an action that has the potential to create fear in children is a despicable act," said Edou in a statement to Ward Media.

Taylor Caldwell: 509-433-7276 or taylor@ward.media

Lake Wenatchee man arrested after setting motorhome ablaze, charging deputies with machete

By ANDREW SIMPSON
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LAKE WENATCHEE — On Thursday night, March 27, Chelan County Sheriff's deputies responded to a call to the 15000 block of U.S. Highway 2 for a person in crisis. The subject, 63-year-old Mark Germain of Lake Wenatchee, lives

in a motorhome behind the 59er Diner and called in to RiverCom himself, asking to go to a hospital by ambulance. He advised he would only go if deputies were with him.

According to the press release from Chelan County Sheriff Mike Morrison, deputies responded along with Lake Wenatchee Fire & Rescue. Upon arrival, deputies made contact

with the man, who came to his door armed with a hammer and a machete. Germain refused to exit the motorhome, saying he didn't feel safe.

Deputies then activated their flashing emergency lights in order to show Germain that they were there to assist him and prove their identities, but the man still refused to

come out, despite acknowledging the lights while on the phone with one of the deputies.

After some time trying to coax Germain from his residence, deputies saw Germain running towards them, still armed with the machete, but apparently having left the hammer

See **MOTORHOME** Page B2



ANDREW SIMPSON/WARD MEDIA

The burned out husk of the motorhome does not look habitable after the fire.



ANDREW SIMPSON/WARD MEDIA

The iconic chrome and glass 50s-themed restaurant does not appear to have suffered any damage from the blaze.

Housing Advisory Committee creates roadmap in its second year

By TAYLOR CALDWELL
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – The Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) has outlined its plans of action for 2025.

The HAC is tasked with making recommendations to the City Council on how to invest its housing fund, including identifying options for funding land purchases or the construction of housing, reviewing housing developments that request city funds, and identifying infrastructure improvements that promote housing options. The city currently has \$400,000 reserved for supporting affordable housing projects.

The committee, which was "re-established" in 2024, spent its first

See **HOUSING** Page B2

Inside The Echo this Week

5 Things to do this Week.....	A2	Community Calendar.....	A3	Sheriff Report.....	A2
Business Directory.....	B2	Classifieds.....	B3	Sports.....	A4
Cascade Scoreboard.....	A4	Kid Scoop.....	B4	Advertising Flyers:	
Church Guide.....	B2	NCW News.....	B1-B2	Safeway, Dan's Food Market	

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WARD MEDIA

On the Internet

Website:
www.leavenworthecho.com
E-mail:
news@ward.media

Office hours

Hours: 8 am - 5 pm except weekends, 509-731-4392

Contact information

CEO & Publisher

Terry Ward
509-731-3284
terry@ward.media

COO & Co-Owner

Amy M. Yaley
509-731-3321
amy@ward.media

Reporter

Taylor Caldwell
taylor@ward.media

Reporter

Quinn Propst
quinn@ward.media

Multi-media Account

Executive

Logan Finley
509-433-7078
logan@ward.media

Administrative Support

Andrea Sanchez-Blanco
509-731-4392
andrea@ward.media

Circulation

509-731-4392
circulation@leavenworthecho.com

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Corrections

The Leavenworth Echo regrets any errors. If you see an error, please call 509-548-5286. We will publish a correction on this page in the next issue.

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Get your event in the spotlight with Ward Media!

If you have an exciting event to share, email Reporter Quinn Propst at quinn@ward.media. We'll showcase the five most captivating events of the week, giving your event the recognition it deserves. Even if your event isn't among the top five, it will still be added to our events calendar and featured online. Don't miss this chance to make your event shine!



STOCK PHOTO

5 THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

Kenzie's Landing Dog Walk
The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust & the Wenatchee Valley Humane Society are hosting a fun-filled dog walk at Kenzie's Landing on Saturday, April 5 from 10:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m. Leash up your pup and enjoy a morning of fresh air, sunshine, and community fun at Kenzie's Landing, 2105 Maiden Ln, Wenatchee

YWCA NCW's Hallow
Queens will host the Spring Queens drag show on Saturday, April 5, to raise funds for YWCA NCW. "The HallowQueens you know and love—plus some fresh faces—are back and ready to take the stage, Get ready for a night of dazzling performances, fierce energy, and unforgettable fun—all for a great cause!" Intended for mature audiences. For more information, visit [Side Hustle on social media.](#)

Taste of Whiskey at Rhein Haus
Rhein Haus Leavenworth will host Taste of Whiskey on April 3 from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. "Join our kilted crooner for a fun evening of favorites and requests in the heart of beautiful Leavenworth," the event page states. For more information, visit [Rhein Haus Leavenworth on social media.](#)

Stuff the Eggs
Join the community in preparing for Easter at Stuff the Eggs on April 7 at 5:00 p.m. at 14400 Chiwawa Loop, Leavenworth. "Help us fill nearly 4,000 eggs with candy! A huge thank you to Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue Association, Plain Church Community, and Ponderosa Community members for making this possible." For more information, visit [Lake Wenatchee Rec Club on facebook](#)

Third annual Día del Fundador Latino to celebrate Latino entrepreneurship in Wenatchee

NCW News
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — NCW Tech Alliance will host the third annual Día del Fundador Latino (Latino Founder Day) on Thursday, April 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Wenatchee Convention Center, offering a full day of programming designed specifically for Latino entrepreneurs across Washington State.

The free, in-person event will be conducted entirely in Spanish and aims to educate, inspire, empower, and connect Latino business owners and professionals throughout the region.

The day will begin with networking opportunities and regional business spotlights from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., followed by expert-led sessions and a keynote luncheon featuring prominent Latino leaders in business and policy.

Afternoon programming will include educational sessions covering financial fundamentals, fundraising strategies, AI-driven marketing approaches, media training, and pitch practice. Throughout the day, attendees can explore a business expo showcasing dozens of Latino-owned businesses, with most vendors offering bilingual services.

Also featured is Marcos Wanless, Founder and President of the Seattle and Tacoma Latino Chambers of Commerce. Under Wanless's leadership, the Seattle Chamber was recognized as the Best Hispanic Chamber in the U.S. in 2022, selected among 260 chambers nationwide.

Wilma Cartagena, Trustee at Wenatchee Valley College and Past President of the NCW Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, will serve as the event's moderator. The event is supported by the Washington State Microenterprise Association, funded by the Washington State Department of Commerce, and Peoples Bank.

Latino entrepreneurs interested in exhibiting their businesses can secure a free booth by contacting Rosie Martin at (509) 881-7543 or rosie@ncwtech.org. Registration for Día del Fundador Latino is free and available at ncwtech.org.
NCW Tech Alliance, established in 1999, operates as a 501(c)3 organization with a mission to bring together people and resources in technology, entrepreneurship, and STEM education in North Central Washington.

Keynote speakers include Nelson Reyneri, Immediate Past Chair of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Director of Strategic Alliances and Policy at NRG Energy. Reyneri brings over two decades of leadership experience in the energy sector, including helping scale Liberty Power from a startup to a billion-dollar enterprise.

Registration for Día del Fundador Latino is free and available at ncwtech.org.

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Nelson Reyneri, Immediate Past Chair of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Director of Strategic Alliances and Policy at NRG Energy

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NCW TECH ALLIANCE

Wenatchee Foothills Trail System reopened April 1 after winter wildlife closure

NCW News
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — The Wenatchee Foothills trail system reopened to the public on Tuesday, April 1, following its annual winter closure, according

to officials from Chelan County PUD and Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT).

The trail system closes each December to protect crucial mule deer winter habitat, creating undisturbed space for wildlife during harsh

winter months. The reopening coincides with the arrival of spring and will welcome back hikers, runners, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

"We greatly appreciate everyone's compliance with the winter closure," said Chelan

PUD Senior Wildlife Biologist Von Pope. "The Wenatchee Foothills are tremendously valuable for deer and other wildlife, especially during the winter months, and for trails users during the spring, summer, and fall."

Chelan PUD manages the Home Water Wildlife Preserve, approximately 960 acres in the heart of Sage Hills, as part of its federal license to operate Rock Island Dam. The winter closures are a required condition of the permitted seasonal trail use.

In addition to the PUD-managed lands, CDLT and the City of Wenatchee also close public access to more than 2,200 acres of adjacent open space to provide additional winter range for wildlife.

Trail improvements are scheduled throughout 2025, according to CDLT officials.

"In 2025, we will focus on trail sustainability and access improvements throughout the Foothills," said Ryan Graig, CDLT's Trails Project Manager. "This spring, we will be re-

grading the Coyote Canyon Trail, improving accessibility at Horse Lake Trailhead, and restoring sections of the Lower Castle Rock trails. In the fall, we will reconstruct the Saddle Rock East Trail and re-grade the Lightning Trail."

The reopening comes as CDLT celebrates its 40th anniversary of land conservation in the region. The organization has announced plans for 40 free community events to mark the milestone and encourages residents to check their website at cdlandtrust.org for updates on trail conditions, weather-related closures, and event changes.

CDLT is a membership-based nonprofit that works collaboratively with property owners and communities to identify and protect important natural lands in Chelan and Douglas counties. The organization relies on community support to continue its conservation mission.



COURTESY OF CHELAN-DOUGLAS LAND TRUST

The Wenatchee Foothills trail system reopened to the public on Tuesday, April 1

Chelan County Sheriff's Report

This report is compiled from records provided by the Chelan County Sheriff's Office and RiverCom. The publisher cannot certify the complete accuracy of the information provided.



March 21

- 07:36:10 Malicious Misch, 19265 Beaver Valley Rd
- 11:04:03 911, 100 Enchantment Park Way, Leavenworth
- 12:12:53 Fraud/Forgery, 25702 Camp 12 Rd, Plain
- 16:00:33 Welfare Check, 24601 Spur St, Plain
- 18:54:14 Suspicious, Us Hwy 2 Mp 100, Leavenworth
- 20:17:30 Court Order Vio, 12735 Prowell St, Leavenworth
- 21:11:56 Parking/Abandon, 263 Mine St# 221, Leavenworth

March 23

- 14:35:18 Noise, Larson Rd & Derby Canyon, Peshastin
- 19:29:38 Assist Public, 1250 Us Hwy 2, Leavenworth
- 21:56:04 Assault, 801 Front St, Leavenworth
- 13:22:57 Burglary, 155 Boyal Ln, Peshastin
- 22:07:04 Welfare Check, 230 Central Ave# B, Leavenworth
- 22:09:15 Noise, 321 Park Ave# H, Leavenworth

March 25

- 07:10:54 Trespass, 15361 Us Hwy 2, Leavenworth
- 08:01:40 Theft, 116 River Bend Dr, Leavenworth
- 10:51:01 Harass/Threat, 212 West St, Leavenworth
- 11:58:08 Assist Public, Leavenworth
- 14:36:28 Atl/Atc, 829 Front St Stec, Leavenworth

March 22

- 11:19:19 Welfare Check, 18183 Winton Rd, Leavenworth
- 12:24:27 Accident No Inj, 14th St & Commercial St, Leavenworth
- 14:03:12 Noise, Lynn St & School

March 24

- 06:33:24 Alarm, 9650 E Leavenworth Rd, Leavenworth
- 11:19:59 Scam, 705 Birch St, Leavenworth
- 11:44:08 Trespass, Us Hwy 2 Mp

March 26

- 16:45:38 Welfare Check, Us Hwy 2 & 9th St, Leavenworth
- 08:21:17 Disturbance, oblk Peshastin Mill Rd, Peshastin
- 08:57:58 Vehicle Theft, 9600blk Derby Canyon Rd, Peshastin
- 12:10:40 Property, 700 Us Hwy 2, Leavenworth
- 14:55:12 Burglary, 18894 Alpine Acres Rd, Plain
- 15:05:35 Malicious Misch, 12426 Bretz Rd, Plain
- 18:15:58 911, 9425 Saunders Rd, Peshastin

March 27

- 08:21:17 Disturbance, oblk Peshastin Mill Rd, Peshastin
- 08:57:58 Vehicle Theft, 9600blk Derby Canyon Rd, Peshastin
- 12:10:40 Property, 700 Us Hwy 2, Leavenworth
- 14:55:12 Burglary, 18894 Alpine Acres Rd, Plain
- 15:05:35 Malicious Misch, 12426 Bretz Rd, Plain
- 18:15:58 911, 9425 Saunders Rd, Peshastin
- 07:19:25 Trespass, 617 Front St, Leavenworth
- 10:38:00 Harass/Threat, 10blk

Broken O Ln, Leavenworth
11:54:54 Disturbance, 24607 Spur St, Plain
13:19:51 Trespass, 3863 Old Blewett Rd, Peshastin
13:25:31 Diversion, 24606 Spur St, Plain
17:50:02 Assist Public, 34000blk Stevens Rd, Leavenworth
19:45:51 Harass/Threat, 9312 E Leavenworth Rd, Leavenworth
23:30:10 Diversion, 15361 Us Hwy 2, Leavenworth

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509-548-5286

Community Calendar

Wednesday

Children and Youth Program, 6:30-8 p.m., 4th-12th grade, Leavenworth Church of the Nazarene, 509-548-5292.
Alpine Water District, meets at the Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue, 1 p.m. Contact Anne Mueller, 425-238-3935.
Ukulele Circle, 5:30- 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the Peshastin Library. Please come 15 minutes early to tune and get sheet music.
Senior Center, Lunch, Noon, \$8 per meal. Call 509-548-6666 by Tuesday noon to make a reservation.

Thursday

Leavenworth Lions Club, Meetings are 1st Thurs. at 6:30pm and 3rd Thurs. at 9 am at Kristalls Restaurant. For more info contact president Tony Maffey at (509)470-6743.
Peshastin Community Council meeting, 7 p.m. Peshastin Memorial Hall. (2nd Thurs.)
Caregiver Support Group, 2-3:30 p.m. For Caregivers of those with Memory Loss. The Henry Building, 120 Cottage Ave. Cashmere. Contact Carmen Gamble, 509-393-0789. (1st & 3rd Thurs.)
Parkinson's Support Group Mountain Meadows Assisted Living 320 Park Avenue Leavenworth, WA 98826. Event Date, Last Thursday of every month, time 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., Contact Cascade Medical 509-548-3420 x 3873
 Find strength in community. Join our People with Parkinson's Support Group for valuable connections, shared experiences, and support. Navigate challenges, celebrate victories, and empower each other on this journey. You are not alone. Join us.
Senior exercise taught by Rehab staff FREE Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-12 at the LDS Church, 10170 Titus Rd.

Friday

Leavenworth Rotary Club, In person at Kristall's Restaurant at Noon. Call President Mahala Murphy-Martin, 206-227-1576, for more information.
Senior Center: Bingo 6 p.m. Call 509-548-6666. Facebook & website: leavenworthseniors@gmail.com

Monday

Upper Valley Free Clinic, open every Monday to evaluate urgent health needs. Downstairs at Cascade Medical, 6:30 -8:00 p.m. Call UVMEND, 509-548-0408 for more information.
Leavenworth Mosquito District board meeting 1st & 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm via ZOOM link posted at https://leavenworthmosquitocontrol.org/notices-updates/
Cascade School board meetings, 7 p.m., Agenda can be found at https://www.cascadesd.org/Page/166. (2nd & 4th Mon.)
Chelan Douglas Republican Women, Monthly meeting and luncheon 1st Monday of the month (unless it's a holiday). \$21. for lunch, \$8. for sitting only. 11 a.m. check in starts, noon for meeting and speaker. Wenatchee Convention Center 121 N. Wenatchee Ave. For information and reservations, please call, Angela Dye, President, 509-668-1105 (1st Mon.)

Tuesday

Peshastin Water District, 5:30 p.m. For meeting location, contact Steve Keene, 509-548-5266. (2nd Tues.)
Ice & Peshastin Irrigation Districts Meeting Current meeting time is 8 a.m. at 5594 Wescott Drive. Call Levi Jantzer, cell 509-607-0278, 509-782-2561, or levi.ipid@nwi.net (2nd Tues.)
Cascade Education Foundation, Contact: CEF@cascade.org
LWSC Alpine Committee, 7 p.m., Ski Hill Lodge. Call 509-548-5477. (1st. Tues.)
Leavenworth Masons, 7:30 p.m., Zarthan Lodge No. 148, Leavenworth Senior Center upstairs. www.leavenworthmasons.org. (1st Tues.)
Cascade Garden Club, 1 p.m., at a member's home or other venue. Call President Claudia, 509-662-7706. (3rd Tues.)
The Chelan County Cemetery District #2 (Peshastin) meets monthly at 6 p.m., at the Memorial Hall, located at 10204 Main Street. (2nd Tues.)
Senior Center, Exercise, 11 a.m-Noon. Tues & Thurs. 509-548-6666. Facebook & Website: leavenworthseniors@gmail.com
Greater Leavenworth Museum board meeting 5-7 p.m. Everyone is invited as a guest. Contact info@leavenworthmuseum.org for meeting information. (1st Tues.)
Senior exercise taught by Rehab staff FREE Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-12 at the LDS Church, 10170 Titus Rd.

NCW Libraries

Libraries will continue to offer a wide variety of resources and programs online at ncwlibraries.org and its Facebook page. Go to NCWLBRARIES.ORG or 1-800-426-READ (7323) for more information, and updates.
Leavenworth Public Library. Located at 700 Hwy. 2, Call 509-548-7923 or online leavenworth@ncwlibraries.org Open on Tues., 10-5, Wed., 11-6, Thurs., 10-7, Fri., 10-5 Sat., 10-2. Closed Sun. and Mon.
Peshastin Public Library. Located at 8396 Main St. Call (509) 548-7821 or email peshastin@ncwlibraries.org. Open on Tues., 2-6pm, Wed., 2-6pm. Thurs., 10am-6pm, Fri., 10am-6pm, Sat., 10am-2pm, closed Sun. and Mon.

Wenatchee pursues legal action against Chelan County over jail services contract

NCW News
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — The City of Wenatchee voted Thursday to take legal action against Chelan County following months of unsuccessful negotiations over jail service agreements, according to an open letter from Mayor Mike Poirier.

The dispute centers on the Chelan County Regional Justice Center, which the county owns and operates. The city currently contracts with the county to house its inmates, paying \$1.6 million in 2024 for these services.

According to Mayor Poirier's letter, Wenatchee police officers have faced challenges with jail access, with some inmates being refused booking. "Every denied booking into the Jail means that an individual who is already suspected of a crime remains in the community with the potential to victimize other people," Poirier wrote in his March 27 letter to residents.

The city has been in discussions with the county since early 2024 to renew their service agreement. Wenatchee officials requested revisions to require the county to book individuals arrested by city officers, but these changes were rejected by the county, according to the mayor.

Financial negotiations have also stalled. The city proposed increasing its annual payment to \$1.8 million for 2025, which was rejected. A subsequent offer of \$2.2 million — a 37% increase from 2024 — was also not accepted by the county.

In response, Chelan County sent the city a letter of termination that would end jail services in August 2025.

"The County's position has left our Wenatchee community with limited options," Poirier wrote. "I cannot in good conscience recommend that the City enter into an agreement that risks the safety of our community and our officers."

The Chelan County Regional Justice Center was established



Mike Poirier, Mayor of the City of Wenatchee

in 1983 as Washington State's first regional jail through a partnership between Chelan County, Douglas County, and Wenatchee. According to the FAQ included with the mayor's letter, Chelan County withdrew from the regional operational approach in 2009 and has since independently operated the facility.

Data provided by the city shows a significant decrease in the jail's average daily

population over recent years. In 2018, the city's average daily population at the jail was 43.5 inmates, while the county had 139.4. By 2024, those numbers had dropped to 28.5 for the city and 81.0 for the county. The jail's capacity is listed as 197 inmates, according to Chelan County Code.

While the city could contract with facilities in neighboring counties, this would require officers to make potentially

four-hour round trips to transport arrestees, taking them away from local law enforcement duties. Building a new city jail would be "a multi-year effort and would not solve the current immediate need for jail services," according to the FAQ.

"I hope this issue sparks more conversations about the need for regional jail services and the importance of working together, just as we did when the Jail was built in 1983," Poirier wrote, encouraging community members to contact local officials about prioritizing public safety.

Burgett's celebrate an aerial golden anniversary.. of smokejumping



COURTESY OF FLYINGTHECOOP.COM

NCSB Wall Art

By Mike Maltais
Ward Media Staff Reporter

BREWSTER — Most milestones separated by half a century involve something significant to jump about. In the case of Rich and Chase Burgett it involves something to literally jump from.

The Burgett's belong to an elite corps of past and present aerial firefighters — the smokejumpers — father, Rich (alum class of 1974)

and son, Chase (active class of 2024). The two gathered recently to reflect on how some aspects of their shared experience — separated by 50 years — are similar while other aspects have changed. A good example involves how each landed his first fire job, one by circumstance, the other by design.

Rich, a 1970 Brewster High School graduate, was pumping gas in Pateros one week, and training to fight fires the next.

In 1971 Forest Service was hiring prospects off the street trying to put some trained crews together following what Rich termed "the hellacious fires" from the previous year.

"One of my friends told me they were hiring at Chelan, so I went there," said Rich. "They picked 10 or 12 of us for a ground crew."

Promotions came quickly after Rich's initial hire.

In 1972 Rich joined a new helitack crew that had converted a Bell UH-1 (Huey) helicopter into a helitack transport.

"We would take off and land at the fire," Rich explained of the quick insertion strategy.

"In 1973 we were the very first helitack crew converted to a rappelling crew," said Rich. "You slide down a rope up to 250-feet long to the ground. We were trying to figure it out along the way."

One of the instructors helping the rappellers learn

the ropes was a jump foreman from the North Cascades Smokejumper Base (NCSB). At the end of the 1973 season the helitack crew members were offered the opportunity to apply for jumper positions the following year. Rich was one of two who took the offer to apply. He made his first jump in 1974 and stayed with the program for six seasons.

Fast forward a couple of decades and hiring procedures and qualifications have changed.

"Nowadays hiring is all done through a third party called USAJobs," said Chase. "They look for people who have a couple years of experience through a Hotshot or Type 1 crew."

Unlike his father, Chase set his sights on wildland firefighting following high school. After graduating Brewster in 2008 Chase hired on with the DNR in South Okanogan. He moved on to Entiat hand and Hotshot crews as he worked his way up the ladder to rappelling.

"Smokejumpers were my goal when I started out," said Chase who made his first jump in 2024. "It took a while to get there. I was a permanent employee with the rappellers, but I'm giving that up to jump for another year."

Parachute upgrades

Chase said one of the biggest changes during the half century from '74 to '24 is the type of parachutes jumpers now use. The round canopies of Rich's era were replaced by the rectangular parafoil type models of the Ram-Air system adopted by the NCSB about four years ago.

"The Ram-Air is more technical, and the rigging, deployment, and flying are different," said Rich. "Ours was a 15-foot static line attached to a deployment bag that pulled the parachute out."



COURTESY OF CHASE BURGETT

Father and son celebrate Chase Burgett's first practice jump.



MIKE MALTAIS/WARD MEDIA

Rich & Chase Burgett

The new system gets the jumper more involved.

"We have a static line that opens a small drogue parachute," said Chase. "All that does is stabilize us in every fall."

During the fall the jumper does a five-count, said Chase:

- Jump-thousand
- Look-thousand
- Reach-thousand
- Wait-thousand
- Pull-thousand

"During that time, you drop under drogue about 500 feet," said Chase. "Then you pull a drogue release and the power generated by the drogue pulls out your main chute."

"I've never flown a round chute," said Chase. "Those who have used both systems say the Ram-Air is more maneuverable and durable with more forward drive to

See BURGETT Page B4

Genealogical Society to host presentation on Douglas County historic records

NCW News
Ward Media

EAST WENATCHEE — The Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society will host a hybrid presentation featuring Douglas County Assessor Jim Ruud on Monday, April 14, at 2:00 p.m.

Ruud will present "Historic Records in Douglas County,"

offering attendees insights into the historical documentation maintained by the county.

The event will be held in person at the FamilySearch Center at 667 10th Street in East Wenatchee. A virtual attendance option is also available via Zoom. Interested participants should contact Library@wags-web.org for connection information. The

presentation is free and open to the public. For additional information about the event, call 509-782-4046.

The Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society regularly hosts educational programs related to family history research and local historical records.

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Girls Varsity Tennis					
Tues, Mar 18	Cascade	18	Cashmere	2	Win
Mon, Mar 17	Cascade	1	Ellensburg	1	Loss

CASCADE SCHEDULE

Boys Varsity Baseball				
Tue, Apr 8 4:30: PM	Cascade vs.		Bridgeport	Away
Boys Varsity Soccer				
Tue, Apr 8 4:00: PM	Cascade vs.		Wahluke	Away
Boys Varsity Tennis				
Wed, Apr 9 4:00 PM	Cascade vs.		Okanogan	Away
Girls Varsity Tennis				
Sat, Mar 29 1:00 PM	Cascade vs.		La Salle	Home
Girls Varsity Softball				
Tue, Apr 8 4:30: PM	Cascade vs.		Bridgeport	Away
Girls Varsity Golf				
Mon, Apr 7 2:00 PM	Cascade vs.		Chelan	Away

TREAD launches "One for the Outdoors" program to support public lands conservation

NCW News
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — TREAD, a nonprofit organization focused on outdoor recreation in North Central Washington, has launched a new initiative to address growing pressures on public lands in the region.

The "One for the Outdoors" program will connect donations and volunteers with outdoor recreation needs through a two-part approach: a voluntary give-back system at local businesses and a volunteer coordination hub.

According to an Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State, outdoor recreation contributed nearly \$720 million to the local economy in 2020. However, rising visitor numbers, chronic underfunding, and recent U.S. Forest Service staffing cuts are putting strain on public lands.

"We are leveraging our position as NCW's trusted partner in outdoor recreation to quickly respond with these community stewardship programs and to help minimize negative impacts until longer-term solutions can be

identified," said Mat Lyons, Executive Director of TREAD.

The Voluntary Give-Back Program (VGB) allows customers at participating businesses to contribute directly to outdoor recreation sustainability. Funds collected at point of sale will be distributed through a competitive grant-making process overseen by an Advisory Committee.

Mission Ridge Ski & Board Resort has already implemented the program for the 2024-2025 season, giving customers the option to add \$1 to transactions made online or at ticket windows.

"Mission Ridge is proud to support the One for the Outdoors initiative to benefit outdoor recreation resources in the region," said Tony Hickock, Chief Marketing Officer at Mission Ridge Ski & Board Resort. "Now more than ever, it is crucial to come together as a community to support the outdoor recreation infrastructure and natural resources that make this place we call home so special."

TREAD reports that similar programs have been

successfully implemented in other outdoor recreation-driven economies, including Lake Tahoe, Bend, and Kittitas County.

The second component, the One for the Outdoors Volunteer Hub, will connect individuals and groups with volunteer opportunities tailored to their skills and availability. Options will range from one-time events to a comprehensive Ambassador program building on existing initiatives.

Participating businesses will be featured on an interactive map on the program website and can display promotional materials at their locations.

Community members interested in supporting the initiative can enroll their business, make a direct donation, or sign up as a volunteer by visiting OnefortheOutdoors.org.

TREAD, which stands for Trails & Recreation, Engagement, Advocacy and Development, collaborates with over 50 partners to advance sustainable outdoor recreation initiatives in North Central Washington.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Julian Feeney Boys Soccer Sophomore

Julian has been a key player for the team, leading as the top scorer with three goals this season. But he brings much more than scoring—his versatility allows him to play forward, fullback, and midfield. His speed, athleticism, and ability to out-jump opponents make him a crucial asset on set pieces. A dedicated learner and team-first player, Julian

supports his teammates on and off the field. With a strong 4-1 start to the season, including a 4-0 win over Omak (where Julian scored) and a tough 2-1 loss to Toppenish, Julian remains a vital part of the team's success. As the season progresses, he will continue to be a cornerstone of the squad.



NCW NEWS

The NCW News network provides timely, accurate, local news stories that are accessible at any time. Readers can access news from across North Central Washington and from our network of community newspapers, **Lake Chelan Mirror, Leavenworth Echo, Cashmere Valley Record, Quad City Herald, and the Wenatchee Business Journal.**

www.ncw.news

WDFW approves new hunting season rules

NCW News
Ward Media

OLYMPIA — Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Director Kelly Susewind has approved most proposed changes to hunting season regulations for the 2025-2026 seasons, with one notable exception.

The director rejected a proposal that would have created new deer and elk multi-season tags for members of federally recognized tribes that have entered into an agreement with WDFW. According to officials, this decision was based on "comments and additional information received during the public comment period and tribal engagement."

Susewind did approve all other season setting rule

proposals delegated to him by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. These include updated regulations for 2025 deer, elk, and waterfowl general hunting seasons, as well as 2025 deer, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat special permit opportunities.

Additionally, the director approved proposals that clarify rule language around certain special closures, firearm restriction areas, and deer areas.

The approved regulations will take effect for the upcoming 2025-2026 hunting seasons and will be incorporated into the Department's annual hunting regulations.

Meanwhile, WDFW continues its rule making process for cougar and black

bear hunting proposals. The Commission is scheduled to make decisions on these during its April meeting in Olympia.

The hunting season setting process involves extensive public feedback on proposed changes to Washington hunting rules. Annual season setting allows for minor adjustments or changes to address emerging needs between the more comprehensive three-year rule making cycles. The last three-year season setting was conducted in 2024.

Final decisions on hunting seasons are made by either the Commission or the WDFW director, based on staff recommendations and public input. More information about hunting season setting and regulations is available on the WDFW website.

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Wenatchee Marathon returns on April 19

Ward Media
NCW News

WENATCHEE – The Wenatchee Marathon, a Boston Qualifier, will return to the valley on April 19.

The annual event invites athletes of all levels to participate in its full marathon (26.2 miles), half-marathon (13.1 miles), 10k, and 5k. Walkers are welcome to join in all of the marathon categories and will be given an early start.

All races begin and end in front of the Numerica Performing Arts Center in the heart of the city's historic downtown. Participants will be taken briefly along Wenatchee Avenue, then through the scenic Apple Capital Loop Trail. The USATF-Certified marathon is largely flat with a few rolling hills, making it ideal for setting personal records and qualifying for the Boston Marathon.

This year's event has also

expanded to feature music by a live DJ, food options, a bouncy house for kids, and a beer garden for ages 21 and up, hosted by Pinnacles Beerworks. Mountain Berry Bowls and Sammies & Hammies will offer local bites, and Café Mela will provide coffee on-site. The entire block of Wenatchee Ave. between First and Second Streets will be closed until 3 p.m. for the event.

The Wenatchee Marathon is put on by TedDriven, a social benefit organization dedicated to supporting cancer research and local organizations and non-profits. Proceeds from the event will go toward cutting edge and groundbreaking cancer research.

The organization was conceived over 20 years ago, after co-founder Ian Crossland lost his mother, Kris Crossland, to cancer. It was renamed TedDriven when another co-founder, Ted Finegold, passed away from cancer in 2010.

Today, the organization is led by co-founders Ian Crossland, Wendy Crossland, and Lynda Finegold-Brine, in addition to Finegold-Brine's husband, Colin Brine.

TedDriven also produces the Leavenworth Marathon, the Leavenworth Mai BlumenLauf, the TedDriven Overland Ultra Relay (TOUR), the Leavenworth Tour de AlpenFlusse, and the TedDriven Gravel Challenge Tour.

The Wenatchee Marathon is sponsored by Wenatchee Valley Medical Group, Peoples Bank, Performance Footwear & Outdoor Gear, Leavenworth Outdoor Center, Mission Ridge and Washington Health Plan Finder.

All races will begin on Wenatchee Avenue, in front of the Numerica Performing Arts Center: 123 North Wenatchee Ave. Finishers in all events will receive a custom Wenatchee Marathon medal. Overall

and age-group awards will be presented at the Podium Stage, with ceremonies beginning at approximately 11 a.m. Registration and more information can be found

on the TedDriven website: teddriven.com/wenatchee-marathon.

Race Start Times:
6:30 a.m.: Early Bird Start for Marathon Walkers (26.2 miles

only)
8:00 a.m.: Marathon
8:20 a.m.: Half Marathon (runners and walkers)
8:45 a.m.: 10K
8:50 a.m.: 5K



COURTESY OF TEDDRIVEN

Participants run along the Apple Capital Loop Trail during the Wenatchee Marathon.

Orondo man in custody after SWAT team responds to taser attacks, standoff



ANDREW SIMPSON/WARD MEDIA

The residence of the suspect is in the 10 block of Orondo Spur, adjacent to Martin Family Orchards.

By Andrew Simpson
Ward Media Staff Reporter

ORONDO — On Monday, March 24, Douglas County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a call just before 3 p.m. for a disturbance on Orondo Spur off US97. Reports said that a man who was later identified as 39-year-old James Scott Martin of Orondo was threatening people and had assaulted others with a taser-equipped flashlight.

According to a Douglas County press release from Sheriff Kevin Morris, deputies and members of the Chelan County Behavioral Health Unit tried a number of times unsuccessfully to get the

man to surrender before summoning the East Cascade SWAT and Crisis Negotiation teams. Traffic was shut down in both directions on US97 for the duration of the incident, with northbound cars being diverted through Waterville via Pine Canyon and southbound vehicles rerouted onto McNeil Canyon Road.

After a 3-hour standoff, Martin was finally subdued and taken to the Chelan County Regional Jail on suspicion of Assault in the Second Degree. He was later formally charged with the assault and with Malicious Mischief in the Second Degree.

This was not Martin's first run-in with a SWAT team. In February of 2024, he was arrested after assaulting two people, one with a metal bar

and one with a glass bottle, at a residence in the same area as this incident. In that instance, Martin also refused to come outside until SWAT arrived. He was subdued with a non-lethal 40 mm round in order to get him in custody.

It's unclear whether the charges from 2024 are still pending.

In Tuesday's release, Sheriff

Morris acknowledged the contributions of East Cascade SWAT, Washington State Patrol, Washington State Department of Transportation, Chelan County Behavioral Health Unit, Rivercom, and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Andrew Simpson: 509-433-7626 or andrew@ward.media



ANDREW SIMPSON/WARD MEDIA

The Orondo Spur of US97 intersects with US2 at Orondo, about 16 miles outside East Wenatchee.

Nick's Bricks LEGO program returns to Wenatchee Valley Museum

NCW News
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — The Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center will host the return of Nick's Bricks, a community event centered on LEGO building and STEM education, on Saturday, April 5.

The free event, running from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., will feature crafts, games, giveaways, and LEGO build displays. Prizes for

the event have been donated by Bricks & Minifigs.

Nick's Bricks was established by the Vitulli family in honor of LEGO enthusiast Nick Vitulli and is supported by the Nicholas H. Vitulli Memorial Fund. Additional sponsorship comes from Goodfellow Bros. and Cascade Auto Center.

The program aligns with the museum's mission "to gather, engage, and educate people to celebrate and preserve the history, arts, sciences, and rich

diversity of our region," as stated in the release.

Visitors interested in learning more about the event can visit the museum's website at wenatcheevalleymuseum.org or contact the WVMCC front desk at (509)-888-6240.

The Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center operates as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with support from the cities of Wenatchee and East Wenatchee.

Burgett

Continued from page A3

overcome moderate to high winds."

Ground hazards

Contrary to what many might assume, the greater risk does not occur during the actual jump, but rather when jumpers are on the ground engaging a

wildfire. What both Burgett's call "gravity hazards" – falling trees, big boulders – pose the real danger for firefighters when their attentions are focused on the work of containment. Rich related one near-miss while he was digging a fire line along one blaze.

"I was digging away with my head down when I heard a loud crack," said Rich. "I looked up

at a tree right in front of me that a two-foot-round boulder had rolled down and hit. Thank God the tree was there, or it would have taken me out."

Despite the risks, both men value their smokejumper experiences, one in retrospect, the other returning.

Mike Maltais: 360-333-8483 or michael@ward.media

City Clerk earns municipal certification

The Leavenworth Echo
Ward Media

LEAVENWORTH — City Clerk Andrea Fischer of Leavenworth has been awarded the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC).

Fischer, who has served as Leavenworth's City Clerk since August 2022, earned the certification after completing rigorous education requirements and demonstrating a proven record of meaningful contributions to her local government, community, and state.

"Andrea's dedication to her role and commitment to continued professional and personal growth are remarkable," said City

Administrator Matthew "Selby." "Her achievement as a Certified Municipal Clerk is a moment of pride for the City of Leavenworth. I congratulate her on this significant accomplishment and celebrate the positive impact her professional expertise brings to our city's leadership team and this community."

The IIMC, established as a non-profit corporation in 1947, comprises 14,000 members across the United States, Canada, and 15 other countries. Its primary mission involves promoting educational opportunities and professional development for municipal clerks worldwide.

Lisa Garcia, MMC, President of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, offered her congratulations in a statement:

"On behalf of the IIMC Board of Directors, I am honored to endorse the conferring of CMC to Andrea Fischer, CMC of City of Leavenworth. We share your pride in this achievement, and we applaud your support of the role Andrea plays in your city."



Leavenworth City Clerk Andrea Fischer

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Wenatchee Valley Symphony Orchestra launches executive director search

NCW News
Ward Media

WENATCHEE — The Wenatchee Valley Symphony Orchestra announced it is seeking a new executive director to lead the organization forward.

The orchestra, which has been a fixture in the Wenatchee Valley arts community since 1947, is looking for "a dynamic and visionary Executive Director" to guide the orga-

nization into what they describe as "its next exciting chapter."

The position will involve multiple responsibilities including "advancing WVSO's mission, overseeing operations, fundraising, and community engagement." This position offers a unique opportunity to shape the future of live symphonic music in the Wenatchee Valley.

The symphony has established a dedicated webpage for interested

candidates, who can access the full job description and application details at the organization's website at wenatcheesymphony.com/ed-announcement. Applications will remain open until a suitable candidate is selected to fill the position.

For additional information about the executive director position, potential applicants are directed to contact Ron Lodge at Rlodge@wenatcheesymphony.org.

The Wenatchee Valley Symphony Orchestra has provided "high-quality symphonic performances and educational programs to audiences of all ages" since its founding nearly eight decades ago, establishing itself as "a cornerstone of the local arts community."



"Because of the actions of this council and the ordinances that you guys passed around cottage housing and other things, they changed directions," said Peterson. "They are all in when it comes to supporting workforce housing."

The HAC is also planning to explore the city-owned land on the north side of Rattlesnake Hill, potentially partnering with a land-trust organization to develop.

Taylor Caldwell: 509-433-7276 or taylor@ward.media

Motorhome

Continued from page A1

behind. He was ordered to drop the weapon and get down on the ground, which he complied with, and he was taken into custody safely.

It was at that point that first responders noticed Germain had set fire to the trailer prior to rushing the deputies. Thankfully, Fire & Rescue was already at the scene and was able to deal swiftly

with the blaze while deputies evacuated citizens nearby to keep them from the fire in the small, guests-only community behind the historic restaurant.

Germain will face a weapons charge for running toward the deputies with the machete and a 1st Degree Arson charge for lighting his motorhome on fire and damaging and endangering nearby structures.

Andrew Simpson: 509-433-7626 or andrew@ward.media



ANDREW SIMPSON/WARD MEDIA

For perspective, the motorhome appears to be no more than about 200 yards from the back of the restaurant.



ANDREW SIMPSON/WARD MEDIA

The entrance to the residential area warns that access is for residents and guests only.

Housing

Continued from page A1

year educating itself by engaging with housing-related community members, according to HAC member Kurt Peterson. In its second year, the HAC plans to take actionable steps on four key priorities: a semi-formal request for ideas and proposals, identification of city-owned property and development, engaging with local groups and politicians for coordinated effort, and eventually putting together a Leavenworth housing summit.

The "request for ideas" would serve as a semi-formalized intake process for affordable housing projects and proposals brought forth by community members. It aims to seek viable projects for the city to invest in, while also raising awareness of the funding and assistance available for those interested in pursuing such projects.

"That's what this committee is kind of charged with, is getting things to a point where we can take it and say, 'Hey, we've got a project that's viable,'" said Mayor Carl Florea.

As an example, Peterson presented a preliminary concept in a presentation to the council on March 25, such as potentially partnering with developers Tom Lin and Matt Melton on a project on River Bend Drive. The original plan included creating six lots and building duplexes, but has now shifted to considering cottage housing with low-cost manufactured homes. Peterson told the council it was working to facilitate ways in which some of the homes could be secured as permanent affordable housing.

Cascade Medical

Continued from page A1

spanning from Lake Wenatchee to the outskirts of Dryden and Cashmere, and covering the Stevens Pass and Blewett Pass corridors. Last year, the emergency department treated more than 4,500 patient visits. On average, the ambulance service receives between 1,300 and 1,400 calls a year, according to EMS Director Brian Pulse.

The hospital staffs two Advanced Life Support (ALS)

ambulances with a paramedic and EMT each, with a Medical Supervising Officer (MSO) as backup, said Pulse. Additionally, it partners with Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue and Fire District #3 to place Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulances at the stations for coordinated response.

"I think it's critical to this area, just because of how rural this area is, you know, you never know from minute to minute what kind of emergency is going to happen," said Pulse. "Having those resources here in town helps make sure we

get adequate care to meet whatever the patient's needs are quickly."

According to Cascade Medical CEO Diane Blake, the emergency and ambulance services run "pretty lean." However, 24/7 preparedness can be expensive, considering full-time staffing and specialized equipment costs.

"[It] is really expensive to have those services ready and available all the time. And that is no matter the setting... It's not uncommon, even in the city, for an emergency department to be a money loser

for a hospital. It's just sort of the nature of it. It's resource intensive," said Blake.

The cost of providing full-time emergency services is more than what billing and insurance covers. Fees for those services covers about 60 percent of the costs, with revenue from other hospital services paying for an additional 20 percent. While Cascade Medical does seek out additional funding sources, Blake says there aren't "routinely that many options available" to fill such a large gap. The EMS levy

is a necessary bridge to the remaining 20 percent.

In recent years, the hospital has also seen costs of service rise due to a number of factors, including inflation, wages, and supply chain challenges. Yet, commercial insurers have not raised their payments at the same rate, said Blake. Despite this, the hospital has remained committed to 24/7/365 service.

"We feel it's essential... In the case of an emergency, it's about time... If someone's having a stroke or a heart attack, how long it takes the

patient to get care can mean the difference between life and death," said Blake. "Being in the community means that we can shorten the timeframe for patients to receive life-saving care, which results in better outcomes."

Ballots will be mailed to voters on April 1, and must be postmarked by April 22. Taxpayers aged 62 years or older, or those with a disability, may qualify for a tax exemption.

Taylor Caldwell: 509-433-7276 or taylor@ward.media

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act...

CORRECTIONS: Ward Media LLC shall be responsible for corrections to advertisements on the first publication only.



Announcements

Miscellaneous

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Attention Landowners and Loggers: Wanted maple burls & logs. I'm looking for large diameter maple burl logs...

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We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid.

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Prepare for power outages with Briggs & Stratton; PowerProtect(TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available.

GET CASH for your real estate or small business seller note! Trade future payments for immediate funds!

General Interest

North Central Washington Mediation. Resolve Conflict Now! 509-521-6441 NCWMediation.net

Employment

Help Wanted

The Bridgeport School District has the following opening for the 2025-26 school year: Secondary Special Education Teacher.

Legals

Public Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Leavenworth has received the following application and has scheduled a public hearing with the Leavenworth Hearing Examiner.

Public Notices

City Council - Public Notice LEAVENWORTH CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Leavenworth City Council will hold a Special Meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 700 US Highway 2.

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE (Chelan County, WA -Ingalls Creek)

Pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Form 854 File Number A1310936, WEIS Towers LLC proposed to construct a monopole tower up to 150' at Ingalls Creek Road, Peshastin, Chelan County, Washington, 98847.

Public Notices

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR CHELAN COUNTY In the Matter of the Estate of JAMES T. NICE SR., Deceased.

The notice agent named below has elected to give notice to creditors of the above-named decedent. As of the date of the filing of a copy of this notice with the court, the notice agent has no knowledge of any other person acting as notice agent or of the appointment of a personal representative of the decedent's estate in the State of Washington.

Public Notices

City of Leavenworth Notice to Consultants for Parking Garage Feasibility & Design

The City of Leavenworth (City) is soliciting qualifications from qualified consulting firms (Consultants) to provide professional services to complete feasibility, design, bidding, and construction services for a new parking structure in downtown Leavenworth, Washington.

Design (Phase 2): The initial agreement with the selected consultant will only include the scope of Phase 1, Site Selection. Upon completion of Phase 1, a supplemental agreement will be executed for Phase 2, Design.

Spread the News about your COMMUNITY EVENT online at ncw.news/leavenworthecho.com

NCW NEWS Discover the heart of North Central Washington with NCW News - your Premier Source for local stories, insights, and community updates.

WORDS

- ANEMONE ASTER AZALEA BEGONIA BLOOM CARNATION CHRYSANTHEMUM DAFFODIL DAHLIA DAISY DANDELION HYDRANGEA IRIS LAVENDER LILY MARGOLD ORCHID PEONY POPPY ROSE SNAPDRAGON SUNFLOWER TULIP ZINNIA

ALL IN BLOOM WORD SEARCH. Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards. Grid of letters for word search.

NCW NEWS Submission Procedure. Submissions shall be sent electronically to Andrea Fischer, City Clerk, at afischer@cityofleavenworth.com by 5:00 PM on Monday, May 5, 2025.

Stevens Pass 'Women in Powder' event doubles impact in second year

By **Taylor Caldwell**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

SKYKOMISH – The second annual women's weekend at Stevens Pass doubled in size and impact as it closed out International Women's Month on March 29 and 30.

The 'Women in Powder' event brought in over 100 attendees on the first of the two-day event, compared to approximately 50 attendees during last year's one-day

celebration. The free weekend event brought together skiers and riders of all abilities to learn new tips and terrain with Stevens Pass ambassadors, explore the terrain park, and hear from industry experts.

"It's about just getting people out on all ability levels...And, yeah, it's all about celebrating women on the mountain and giving them the opportunity [and] access to be in community," said Annette Diggs, one of the

event's panelists.

Diggs, a career scientist and Stevens Pass ski instructor, is also the founder and CEO of the nonprofit EDGE Outdoors, which aims to get more Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color participating in snow sports.

On Sunday morning, she joined professional skier Ingrid Backstrom and K2 Skis design engineer Christie Burrow for a panel discussion. In a room of approximately 60 skiers and riders, the panelists discussed their challenges and achievements as they pioneered paths within the outdoor space.

"[Diggs] said she learned when she was 36. I learned when I was 31, and I'm still learning. So it's definitely nice to see somebody who looks like me, who kind of had the same journey as well, being out here on the mountain," said Women in Powder attendee Shaquita Young.

During the panel, Diggs discussed the importance of changing the mountain culture "to feel more like home to everyone," by having diverse representation on every aspect of the mountain. As the first woman product designer at

K2, Burrow discussed finding ways to improve women's performance gear, which was historically designed by men. Through her work, she discovered errors in the design process for scaling boot sizes, disproportionately affecting women in smaller sizes.

"It's completely changed the way we're designing boots... [We're] designing the first ever truly women's specific ski boot that is completely separate from men," said Burrow. "We deserve to have our voices heard when it comes to product design."

Backstrom shared experiences of gender inequity in the professional athlete space, leaning on mentorship, and focusing on priorities over societal expectations. "I think that [the panel] was just kind of validating. I'm in the military. So, you know, it definitely was resonating to hear someone say, 'Yep, we are the first women in this space,'" said Young. "It just kind of gives you that little reminder, like, hey, we're all we're all fighting the same fight, just in different spaces."

Taylor Caldwell: 509-433-7276 or taylor@ward.media



DELANEY ADRIAN / STEVENS PASS

The Women in Powder weekend brought skiers and riders together to learn skills, explore terrain, and meet new people in a women-led space.



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

EDGE Outdoors participants Cindy Marquina Negrete, Samara Almonte, and Helena Ochoa pose with founder and CEO Annette Diggs following the panel.



DELANEY ADRIAN / STEVENS PASS

Panelists Annette Diggs, Ingrid Backstrom, and Christie Burrow share their experiences as leaders in the outdoor space.

City Council

Continued from page A1

resolution, citing that the resolution was too general. Councilmember Zeke Reister ultimately motioned for the vote in order to open the discussion.

"I think there's more to be said. I think there's more explicit issues that highlight

the salient points," said Reister.

Reister told the council he would be open to moving forward with the resolution if it was amended to include the local implications of fire prevention funding being frozen. Currently, a \$9.275 million Community Wildfire Defense grant for the Leavenworth area is on hold as the Washington Department of

Natural Resources has yet to access \$180 million in federal funding due to the Trump administration's spending freeze.

Council members agreed, recognizing the resolution needed a more direct ask if it were to be escalated to federal representatives.

"I think that that needs to more so reflect what's currently going on, because

there will be rehiring of some of these federal employees and we need to talk about a little bit more specifically of what we're really expecting out of that. What do we want locally with regard to hiring?" said Councilmember Anne Hessburg.

Members of the public also weighed in, with Russ Truman commending the resolution and asking for signatures on

a letter to representatives with similar intent. BeeJay Robinson advised the council to make sure the resolution had "footing" before passing it.

"Have the community come here and talk to you about how it is going to affect them. Let's listen to it and put that in the resolution, as long as it matches with every lawsuit that [the state attorney

general has] out there...It's not just us standing on our own and risking everything. We're standing with the State of Washington," said Robinson.

The council voted to postpone the resolution, make amendments to include specific items, and bring it to a vote at a later meeting.

Taylor Caldwell: 509-433-7276 or taylor@ward.media

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE
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Puzzling Camels

Discover some surprising facts about camels by solving the puzzles on today's **Kid Scoop** page!

Blink! Blink! Blink!

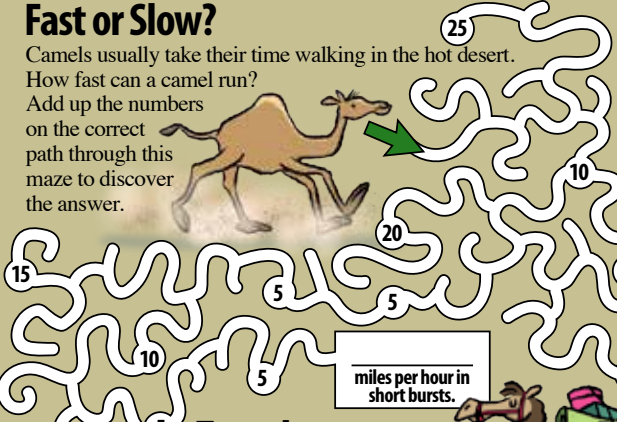
Camels have lovely, long lashes to help keep sand out of their eyes. But that's not all. Camels have another interesting eye feature that helps keep the sand out of their eyes. Circle every other letter to find out what it is.



C S A B M T E J L M S Q H V A H V L E W A C
T B H N I Y R K D B E Q Y X E M L O I T D H
C A _____

Fast or Slow?

Camels usually take their time walking in the hot desert. How fast can a camel run? Add up the numbers on the correct path through this maze to discover the answer.



Togetherness

Camels are social animals that like to be in groups called **herds**. Can you find each camel's exact twin?



Designed for the Desert

Oops! The hot desert sun melted some of the words in this paragraph. Can you replace them?

Camels have _____, tough feet that help them _____ on hot, sandy deserts. These wide feet keep them from sinking in the _____ and, surprisingly, make them excellent swimmers!

When it's windy in the desert, camels can pinch their nostrils _____ to keep out sand and dust.

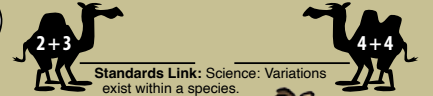
What's in the Hump?

A camel's hump is **not** filled with water. Hold this page up to a mirror to see what's inside a camel's hump.

erit qesx zqlerl t6t 9rT J6t rtiw bellit zi qmurl z'lembas A lembas erit zqlerl bns yqlerle zsbivotqi ti bna. loos lembas .retsw no boot norotitw zbioeq qol og

One Hump, Two Humps

Do the math. The camel with an even-numbered answer is a BACTRIAN camel. The one with an odd-numbered answer is a DROMEDARY.



Desert Description

Look through today's newspaper to find 10 adjectives that describe a desert.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify adjectives.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

For centuries, humans have used camels as transportation and to carry goods across the desert. For this reason, they have earned a famous nickname. Use the code to reveal it.

S	S				
○	○	○	○	○	○

SECRET CODE

○ = D	○ = O
○ = E	○ = P
○ = F	○ = R
○ = H	○ = S
○ = I	○ = T

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

S	W	I	M	M	E	R	S	C	T
E	O	W	I	K	C	I	V	S	A
L	B	C	A	M	E	L	U	G	Y
I	H	O	I	T	Y	D	T	H	G
H	Q	O	Z	A	E	S	R	M	R
F	U	L	T	P	L	R	E	U	E
O	M	M	V	S	D	N	S	Y	N
O	I	W	P	H	U	H	E	Z	E
D	J	E	F	S	A	N	D	B	K

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Desert Deal

Look at the advertisements in today's newspaper. Write an ad describing all the great features of camels. Draw a cool picture of a camel for your ad, too.

Standards Link: Writing: Write descriptively using details.

Write On!

Camel Fact and Opinion

Describe a camel with three facts and one opinion. Label each one.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write descriptively using supporting details.

Kid Scoop Together

Funny Fill-In

Ask a family member for nouns, adjectives and verbs to fill in the blanks. Then read your silly story aloud!

The Camel Race

It was a _____ day in the desert. Clive Camel challenged Carla Camel to a race from the sandy _____ to a _____ oasis a mile away.

Carla got an early lead, running as fast as a _____ . But she tripped over a _____ and Clive pulled into the lead.

Clive struggled running up a _____ dune, and he began to _____ down the other side. Carla caught up!

The two camels were neck-and-neck as they approached the oasis. As he galloped over the _____, Clive shouted, "I'm going to win!"

Just then, the oasis disappeared! "Oh, no! The oasis was just a _____ mirage!" cried Carla as clouds of dust and _____ swirled all around the two camels.

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